Amendment to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

Claim 1 (previously presented): A method of managing notifications in a web-based notifications system, said notifications system being configured to provide notifications to a user via a data communication network, said notifications containing content provided by one or more content providers, said content relating to one or more topics, said method comprising:

implementing a web service responsive to requests structured according to an extensible messaging framework;

receiving, at the web service, a request from a content provider, said request specifying a selected notification management function, said request being structured according to the messaging framework;

extracting request information from the request, said request information including at least a content provider identifier and a plurality of topic identifiers, each said topic identifier being associated with a corresponding uniform resource locator (URL) relative to the domain of the content provider;

executing the selected notification management function based on the extracted request information for each of the plurality of topic identifiers; and

sending a response object to the content provider, said response object being structured according to the messaging framework, said response object containing information relating to either success or failure for the executed notification management function for each of the plurality of topic identifiers.

Claim 2 (original): The method of claim 1, wherein the extensible messaging framework comprises a Simple Object Access Protocol (SOAP) and wherein the request comprises a SOAP request.

Claim 3 (original): The method of claim 1, wherein the request includes a header and wherein extracting request information comprises extracting the content provider identifier from the header.

Claim 4 (canceled).

Claim 5 (previously presented): The method of claim 1, further comprising sending the response object to the content provider via the data communication network.

Claim 6 (original): The method of claim 1, further comprising providing a command line utility configured for use by the content provider to structure the request according to the messaging framework.

Claim 7 (original): The method of claim 1, wherein executing the selected notification management function comprises performing a function corresponding to the topic identifier specified by the extracted request information selected from the group consisting of: creating a topic; deleting a topic; updating a topic; and enumerating topics.

Claim 8 (original): The method of claim 1, wherein extracting request information further comprises extracting a user identifier to identify the user.

Claim 9 (original): The method of claim 8, wherein executing the selected notification management function comprises subscribing the identified user to a topic corresponding to the topic identifier specified by the extracted request information, said identified user to receive at least one notification via the web-based notifications system relating to the topic when subscribed thereto.

Claim 10 (original): The method of claim 9, wherein subscribing the identified user comprises:

querying a user profile store for profile information corresponding to the identified user;

determining routing information for the notification based on the profile information;

creating a subscription corresponding to the topic identifier, said subscription including the topic identifier, the user identifier, and the routing path for the notification; and

creating a response object in response to said received request, said response object being structured according to the messaging framework, said response object containing information identifying the created subscription; and

sending the response object to the content provider via the data communication network.

Claim 11 (original): The method of claim 8, wherein executing the selected notification management function comprises unsubscribing the identified user to a topic corresponding to the topic identifier specified by the extracted request information, said identified user to no longer receive notifications via the web-based notifications system relating to the topic when unsubscribed thereto.

Claim 12 (original): The method of claim 8, wherein executing the selected notification management function comprises updating one or more subscriptions based on the user identifier and the topic identifier specified by the extracted request information.

Claim 13 (previously presented): One or more computer-readable storage media having computer-executable instructions for performing the method of claim 1.

Claim 14 (currently amended): A method of managing notifications in a web-based notifications system, said notifications system being configured to provide notifications to a user via a data communication network, said notifications containing content provided by one or more content providers, said content relating to one or more topics, said method comprising:

implementing a web service responsive to requests structured according to an extensible messaging framework;

receiving, at the web service, requests from a plurality of content provider, said requests being structured according to the messaging framework;

extracting request information from each of the plurality of requests, said request information including at least a content provider identifier, a topic identifier, a selected notification management function related to managing subscriptions to be performed by the notifications system, and a user identifier, each content provider being associated a plurality of subscriptions, each subscription being associated with one content provider;

querying a user profile store for profile information corresponding to each of the user identifiers of the requests;

querying a messaging service based on the user identifier for additional data to determine use of said messaging service by the user associated with the user identifier;

determining routing information for a notification based on the profile information and the additional data for each ~~request~~ user identifiers; and

creating a subscription for the users corresponding to the topic identifiers by executing the selected notification management function based on the extracted request information, wherein the selected notification management function is related to the management of subscriptions associated with the content provider corresponding to the content provider identifier of the request and wherein the subscription for the user includes the determined routing information corresponding to the user.

Claim 15-16 (canceled).

Claim 17 (previously presented): The method of claim 14, wherein executing the selected notification management function comprises unsubscribing the user to a topic corresponding to the topic identifier specified by the extracted request information, said user to no longer receive notifications via the web-based notifications system relating to the topic when unsubscribed thereto.

Claim 18 (original): The method of claim 14, further comprising creating a response object in response to said received request, said response object being structured according to the messaging framework, said response object containing information relating to either success or failure of the request.

Claim 19 (original): The method of claim 18, wherein said response object contains information identifying the created subscription.

Claim 20 (original): The method of claim 18, further comprising sending the response object to the content provider via the data communication network.

Claim 21 (original): The method of claim 18, wherein the extensible messaging framework comprises a Simple Object Access Protocol (SOAP) and wherein the request comprises a SOAP request.

Claim 22 (original): The method of claim 14, wherein the request includes a header and wherein extracting request information comprises extracting the content provider identifier from the header.

Claim 23 (previously presented): One or more computer-readable storage media having computer-executable instructions for performing the method of claim 14.

Claim 24 (currently amended): A web-based system for processing notifications, said notifications containing content provided by one or more content providers to subscribed users, said content relating to one or more topics, said system comprising:

a computing device to implement a web service responsive to requests structured according to an extensible messaging framework, said computing device being coupled to a data communication network and configured to receive requests from a plurality of content providers via the data communication network, said requests from the plurality of content providers specifying a selected notification management function related to managing subscriptions, said request being structured according to the messaging framework, each content provider being associated a plurality of subscriptions, each subscription being associated with one content provider;

a computer-readable storage medium storing computer-executable instructions to be executed on the computing device to extract request information from the plurality of requests, said request information including a content provider identifier and a topic identifier associated with the request and to perform the selected notification management function based on the extracted request information, said topic identifier being associated with a corresponding uniform resource locator (URL) relative to the domain of the content provider wherein the selected notification management function is related to the management of subscriptions

associated with the content provider corresponding to the content provider identifier and the topic identifier; and

a memory associated with the computing device to store the extracted request information in connection with the selected notification management function.

Claim 25 (original): The system of claim 24, wherein the extensible messaging framework comprises a Simple Object Access Protocol (SOAP) and wherein the request comprises a SOAP request.

Claim 26 (original): The system of claim 24, wherein the request includes a header and the content provider identifier is extracted from the header.

Claim 27 (previously presented): The system of claim 24, wherein the computer-readable storage medium further stores computer-executable instructions to be executed on the computing device to create a response object in response to said received request, said response object being structured according to the messaging framework, said response object containing information relating to either success or failure of the request.

Claim 28 (original): The system of claim 24, wherein the selected notification management function comprises one of the following: creating a topic; deleting a topic; updating a topic; and enumerating topics.

Claim 29 (original): The system of claim 24, wherein the request information further comprises a user identifier to identify the user.

Claim 30 (previously presented): The system of claim 29, wherein the selected notification management function comprises subscribing the identified user to a topic corresponding to the topic identifier specified by the extracted request information, said identified user to receive at least one notification relating to the topic when subscribed thereto, said notification including content related to said subscribed topic.

Claim 31 (original): The system of claim 29, wherein the selected notification management function comprises unsubscribing the identified user to a topic corresponding to the topic identifier specified by the extracted request information, said identified user to no longer receive notifications relating to the topic when unsubscribed thereto.

Claim 32 (currently amended): A web-based system for processing notifications, said notifications containing content provided by one or more content providers, said content relating to one or more topics, said system comprising:

a computing device to implement a web service responsive to requests structured according to an extensible messaging framework, said computing device being coupled to a data communication network and configured to receive a request from a content provider via the data communication network;

a user profile store associated with the computing device to store information representative of a plurality of users; and

a computer-readable storage medium storing computer-executable instructions to be executed on the computing device to extract request information from the request, said request information including a content provider identifier, a topic identifier, and a user identifier associated with the request, to query the user profile store for profile information corresponding to the user identifier, to query messaging service based on the user identifier for additional data to determine use of said messaging service by the user associated with the user identifier, to determine routing information for a notification based on the profile information and the additional data, and to create a subscription corresponding to the topic identifier, the user identifier, and the routing path for the notification, wherein the subscribed user associated with the user identifier receives at least one notification containing content provided the content provider via the routing path, the content being related to said subscribed topic associated with the topic identifier, the topic identifier being associated with a corresponding uniform resource locator (URL) relative to the domain of the content provider.

Claim 33 (previously presented): The system of claim 32, wherein said request information extracted from the request further specifies a selected notification management function to be performed by the system, and wherein the computer-readable storage medium further stores

computer-executable instructions to be executed on the computing device to perform the selected notification management function based on the extracted request information.

Claim 34 (original): The system of claim 33, wherein the selected notification management function is selected from the following group: creating a topic; deleting a topic; enumerating topics; creating a subscription; deleting a subscription; updating a subscription; and enumerating subscriptions.

Claim 35 (previously presented): The system of claim 32, wherein the computer-readable storage medium further stores computer-executable instructions to be executed on the computing device to create a response object in response to said received request, said response object being structured according to the messaging framework, said response object containing information relating to either success or failure of the request, and wherein the computing device is configured to send the response object to the content provider in response to the request received therefrom.

Claim 36 (original): The system of claim 32, wherein the extensible messaging framework comprises a Simple Object Access Protocol (SOAP) and wherein the request comprises a SOAP request.

Claim 37 (previously presented): A web service for managing notifications in a web-based notifications system, said notifications system being configured to provide notifications to a user via a data communication network, said notifications containing content provided by one or more content providers, said content relating to one or more topics, said web service comprising:

a computing device to implement the web service, said computing device being coupled to the data communication network and configured to receive requests structured according to an extensible messaging framework from one or more content providers via the data communication network; and

a computer-readable storage medium storing computer-executable instructions to be executed on the computing device to provide the extensible messaging framework to the content providers to create requests, said requests when structured according to the messaging

framework each specify a selected notification management function and contain request information, said request information for each of the requests including a content provider identifier and a plurality of topic identifiers associated therewith, each said topic identifier being associated with a corresponding uniform resource locator (URL) relative to the domain of the content provider, said computer-readable storage medium further storing computer-executable instructions to be executed on the computing device to extract the request information for each of the requests and to perform the selected notification management function based on the extracted request information, said computer-readable storage medium further storing computer-executable instructions to be executed on the computing device to create a response object in response to said received request, said response object each being structured according to the messaging framework and containing information relating to either success or failure of the performed notification management functions for each of the plurality of topic identifiers.

Claim 38 (original): The web service of claim 37, wherein the extensible messaging framework comprises a Simple Object Access Protocol (SOAP) and wherein the requests comprise SOAP requests.

Claim 39 (canceled).

Claim 40 (original): The web service of claim 37, wherein the selected notification management function comprises is selected from the following group: creating a topic; deleting a topic; enumerating topics; creating a subscription; deleting a subscription; updating a subscription; and enumerating subscriptions.

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